

REMARKS

Claims 49-61 are in the application.

The specification is amended to correct a typographical error.

The Examiner has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 between claims 50-54 (Species I – drawn to a first embodiment in which the nitridizing occurs prior to joining the first and second substrates), and claims 55-61 (Species II – drawn to a second embodiment in which the nitridizing occurs after joining the first and second substrates). The Examiner also asserts patentably distinct species encompassed by sub-species A, B, C, and D for each of Species I and II.

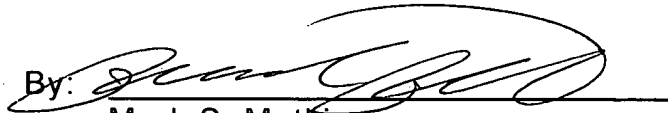
Applicant hereby elects Species II, Sub-species A. Claims 49, 55, 56, 60, and 61 read thereon or are generic thereto.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _____

4/12/04

By: _____



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